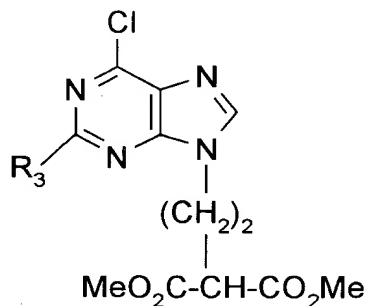


wherein

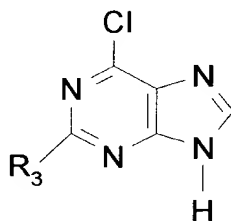
X is hydrogen or hydroxy; and R_a and R_b are hydrogen or acetyl, which process comprises:

- (i) the preparation of a compound of formula (I):



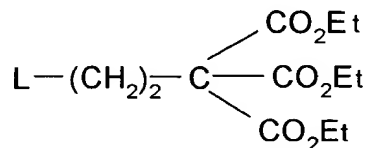
(I)

wherein R₃ is an amino group or a protected amino group, which preparation comprises the reaction of a compound of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R₃ is as defined above for formula (I) with a compound of formula (V):

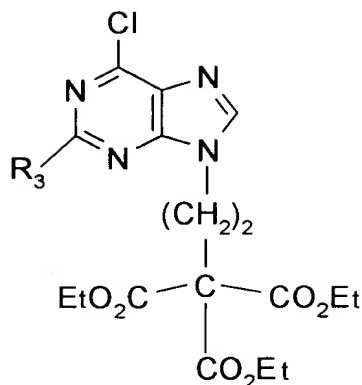


(V)

wherein L is a leaving group, to give a compound of formula (VI):

D¹
cont.

- 3 -



(VI)

and thereafter converting the intermediate compound of formula (VI) to a compound of formula (I) via decarboxylation with sodium methoxide in methanol; and

(ii) conversion of the resulting compound of formula (I) to a compound of formula (A) by:

- D¹ ant*
- a) removal, if necessary, of the amino protecting group;
 - b) reducing the ester groups CO_2Me to CH_2OH groups, and, if necessary, acetylating to form the corresponding CH_2OAc groups; and
 - c) dechlorinating via a hydrogenolysis reaction to yield a compound of Formula (A) in which X is hydrogen; or dechlorinating via a hydrolysis reaction to yield a compound of Formula (A) in which X is hydroxy.

REMARKS

Claims 5 to 7, 10 to 14, and 21 are in the application. Newly added claim 21 now includes the transesterification step and is presented for the Examiner's review and consideration.

The claims presently in the application now only cover a process where the 6-chloro substituent must be removed after the coupling and decarboxylation steps.